



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE
EPA-REGION 10

June 28, 2001

Reply To Attn Of: ECO-087

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon, and in cooperation with the Columbia Basin Tribes, I would like to invite your participation in informational workshops to share information on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for total dissolved gas (TDG) and water temperature on the Mainstem of the Columbia/Snake River. *The first workshop will be July 23, 2001, at 9:00 AM, Bigfoot and Sasquatch Rooms, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Green St., Spokane, Washington. The second workshop will be July 24, 2001, at 9:00 AM, Commission Room, Port of Portland, 2nd & Everett St., Portland, Oregon.* A TMDL fact sheet and an agenda for each of these workshops is enclosed. Please attend whichever is most appropriate and/or convenient. Check the website, www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainmainstemtmdl.htm, for more timely materials as they are developed.

The purpose of the workshops is to provide information on the TDG and temperature TMDLs being developed for the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem, and to receive informal feedback on the temperature model (RBM-10) being used in this effort. Topics under consideration include current temperature and TDG problems in the basin, the temperature and TDG TMDL process and schedule, and the temperature model. The workshops will conclude with an interactive discussion of the workshop topics, and an opportunity for participants to informally comment on the temperature model. We look forward to the participation of many key groups, including the Western Governors' Association, which has initiated an effort to support the TMDL work in the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem, and will be assisting with the facilitation of this workshop.

If you will be able to attend one of these workshops, please RSVP by July 16, 2001, to Teresa Kubo in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Oregon Operations Office at (503) 326-3280, or by e-mail at kubo.teresa@epa.gov. More specific information and directions can be provided to you then. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Teresa Kubo
Columbia River Assistant
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Oregon Operations Office
(503) 326-3280

Enclosures

July 23, 2001
Proposed Agenda
Columbia/Snake Mainstem Temperature and TDG TMDL
Informational Workshop

9 AM - 4 PM
Spokane Community College - Bigfoot and Sasquatch Rooms
1810 N. Green St.
Spokane, Washington
July 23, 2001

Meeting Objectives: Provide information on the TDG and temperature TMDLs being developed for the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem, and to receive informal feedback on the temperature model being used in this effort.

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|----------|---|
| 9:00 am | Welcome and Introductions |
| 9:15 am | Problem Identification - Mid-Columbia/Lower Snake Total Dissolved Gas <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Water Quality Standards (Temperature and TDG)- 303(d), ESA, Biological Opinion |
| 10:15 am | Upper Columbia TDG TMDL Process and Schedule |
| 10:30 am | Break |
| 10:45 am | Problem Identification Temperature |
| 11:00 am | Temperature TMDL Process |
| 12:00 am | Lunch (on your own) |
| 1:00 pm | Temperature Model Description <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Model Selection- Data Needs- Application |
| 1:45 pm | Interactive Discussion (Facilitator) |
| 2:15 pm | Break |
| 2:30 pm | Interactive Discussion (continued) |
| 3:00 pm | Key Points and Next Steps (Facilitator) |

For more information on the workshop contact: Teresa Kubo in the EPA Oregon Operations Office at (503) 326-3280, or by e-mail at kubo.teresa@epa.gov.

July 24, 2001
Proposed Agenda
Columbia/Snake Mainstem Temperature and TDG TMDL
Informational Workshop

9:00 AM - 4 PM
Port of Portland - Commission Room
2nd & Everett St.
Portland, Oregon
July 24, 2001

Meeting Objectives: Provide information on the TDG and temperature TMDLs being developed for the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem, and to receive informal feedback on the temperature model being used in this effort.

9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 am	Problem Identification Lower Columbia Total Dissolved Gas <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Water Quality Standards (Temperature and TDG)- 303(d), ESA, Biological Opinion
9:45 am	Lower Columbia TDG TMDL Process and Schedule
10:15 am	Total Dissolved Gas Model
10:45 am	Break
11:00 am	Problem Identification Temperature
12:00 am	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm	Temperature TMDL Process
1:30 pm	Temperature Model Description <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Model Selection- Data Needs- Application
2:15 pm	Interactive Discussion (Facilitator)
3:15 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Interactive Discussion (continued)
4:00 pm	Key Points and Next Steps (Facilitator)

For more information on the workshop contact: Teresa Kubo in the EPA Oregon Operations Office at (503) 326-3280, or by e-mail at kubo.teresa@epa.gov.

Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL Fact Sheet
Prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
June 22, 2001

Purpose:

The purpose of the Columbia and Snake River Mainstem Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) is to understand the sources of total dissolved gas and temperature loadings and to allocate those loadings to meet state and tribal water quality standards. This is a task that will require careful coordination, cooperation, and management by all parties involved in this effort.

The complexity of the governance system is profound, involving Federal agencies, state agencies, Tribes, private entities, and Public Utility Districts (PUDs). No single agency or Tribe can assert its jurisdiction and achieve a successful outcome. For example, total dissolved gas travels across international borders, through tribal and state jurisdictions, and is increased by passage over Federal, PUD, and private dams. Its one commonality is that it is harmful to fish and aquatic life at certain percentages of saturation. Temperature exceedances are perhaps even more complex in assessing causes and solutions.

Scope:

The geographic scope of this effort includes the Mainstem Snake River from river mile (RM) 188 to its confluence with the Columbia River. For the Mainstem Columbia River, the TMDL will reach from the Canadian Border to the Astoria Bridge at the River mouth.

Vision and Final Products:

- An equitable allocation of pollutant reductions that accurately reflects relative contribution, and favors no one state, Tribe, or dam operator.
- A TMDL that informs decision-makers as to the real causes of the water quality standards violations and the resultant loadings required to attain water quality standards and that has public participation.
- A TMDL that recognizes and complements work in habitat and hydropower.
- A TMDL that is approvable, withstands appeal, and meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act and state TMDL legal settlements and decisions.
- A TMDL that has the support of the participants.
- A TMDL that promotes real improvements in water quality and meets water quality standards.
- A cooperative venture which recognizes the expertise, jurisdiction, authorities, and efforts of all participants.

TMDL Partners:

- US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
- Washington DOE
- Oregon DEQ
- Idaho DEQ
- Columbia Basin Tribes

Conceptual Approach:

EPA will:

- Develop the technical basis for the TMDL for temperature for the Snake/Columbia Mainstem using the RBM 10 Model developed by EPA Region 10.
EPA will coordinate tribal involvement. EPA will provide the leadership with the states and Tribes to collaborate and cooperate on mainstem TMDL public involvement.

Each State is expected to produce:

- The TMDL for total dissolved gas for their waters in cooperation with the dam operators within their boundaries. EPA will work with the Colville Tribe, and the Spokane Tribes for the portion of the dissolved gas TMDL within Reservation boundaries. Oregon DEQ and Washington DOE will collaborate on the total dissolved gas TMDL for the interstate portions of the Columbia River.

Possible implementation mechanisms that could be used to achieve the allocations in the TMDL include changes in the construction or operation at dams, FERC licenses, Biological Opinions, NPDES permits, consent decrees, water quality standards, habitat conservation plans, or other agreements.

Roles of Partners:**EPA:**

- Ensure coordination of the entire TMDL development effort between all involved parties.
- Technical lead for temperature TMDL
- Connect work to the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL. Coordinate total dissolved gas TMDLs.
- Coordinate Tribal participation
- Coordinate Federal participation.
- Exercise Trust responsibility to the Columbia River Tribes by inviting their participation, seeking their advice and expertise, and keeping them informed on critical issues related to TMDL development.
- Coordinate development of the total dissolved gas TMDL for the Upper Columbia River within the boundaries of the Colville and Spokane reservations.
- Connect work to the Clearwater River TMDL.
- Lead on a single public involvement effort.
- Coordinate with Provincial Federal government of Canada, Washington DOE, and the Tribes on addressing total dissolved gas standards at the US/Canadian border.

Expected Roles of State Partners:**Oregon DEQ:**

- Co-lead for Snake interstate waters with Idaho DEQ.
- Co-lead on Mainstem Columbia total dissolved gas TMDL with Washington DOE.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Idaho DEQ:

- Co-lead for Snake interstate waters with Oregon DEQ.
- Engage Idaho Power Company.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Washington DOE:

- Lead for total dissolved gas TMDLs within state boundaries.
- Co-lead on Mainstem Columbia total dissolved gas TMDL with Oregon DEQ.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Engage PUDs in the TMDL development process.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Columbia Basin Tribes:

- Work with EPA and the states to prepare TMDLs and coordinate and consult on decisions.

Expected Roles of Cooperating Agencies and Tribal Governments:

- Federal Action Agencies (USACE, BOR, BPA): Provide data and information, financial/technical assistance, models, modeling, and general support.
- PUDs/Private Dams: Provide data and information, technical/financial assistance; assist in TMDL development and implementation.
- FERC: Condition future licenses to be consistent with any 401 certification requirements which include conditions necessary to achieve the allocations in the TMDL.
- NMFS: Assist in resolution of temperature and total dissolved gas issues.
- FWS: Assist in resolution of temperature and total dissolved gas issues.
- Columbia Basin Tribes: Participate in government-to-government coordination and consultation to provide their views and perspectives and lend their expertise to the effort.

For More Information or for State and Tribal Contacts:

www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainmainstemtmdl.htm

Other Questions:

Mary Lou Soscia, EPA, Portland, (503) 326-3250

or

John Osterberg, Western Governors' Association, (303) 623-9378